

For the summertime angler

Starvation's worth checking out



Rod Collett Photos

Starvation Reservoir in eastern Utah has excellent camping and boat launching facilities.

By REX C. INFANGER
Herald Correspondent

Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge, Strawberry — places that have great sounding names and invoke images of good fishing, family outings, warm weather and fun. Starvation doesn't bring those same images to mind, it's just a reservoir you drive over while going to Flaming Gorge or, it's the one 40 miles past Strawberry — a nice place to drive by.

This is the image I had of Starvation until last week when John Lawrence invited Rod Collett, the Herald's associate sports editor, and myself to spend a day at the lake.

John and his brother, Max, met us at the marina (that I didn't know was there) and gave us the cooks tour. The Lawrence brothers put in their bid for the concession last year and were awarded a 10 year renewable lease from the Utah State Parks and Recreation. John spends most of his time at the lake and is in the process of building a nice marina. A 60-foot trailer on the sight now serves as the office, snack bar and rental equipment center. The trailer will be expanded to a double wide next year with a

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It took Max Lawrence 10 minutes to land this beauty — a 3½ pound Walleye caught on a purple jig at Starvation.

Reclamation To Close Its Construction Office in Duchesne

10-26-88

The Bureau of Reclamation has announced it will close its Uinta Basin Construction Office in Duchesne on Jan. 14, 1989. In making the announcement, Regional Director Clifford I. Barrett said the work at Duchesne has been largely completed, and the remaining field work associated with refilling Upper Stillwater Reservoir will be conducted by the Bonneville Construction Office in Provo.

Approximately 30 employees are affected by the decision to close. This number is steadily decreasing as employees are placed in other positions with the Bureau of Reclamation or other Federal agencies. Earlier in 1988, the employees were placed on a surplus list, which gave them some preference in placement.

At its peak, Reclamation maintained a major presence in Duchesne, according to Barrett. The office officially opened in 1964. Prior to that, about 60 employees a week commuted to the Duchesne area from Provo. At its peak, the office employed 250 people engaged in building the Strawberry Collection System, Upper Stillwater Dam, and Bottle Hollow Dam, which are components of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project (CUP). Duchesne based workers also built

the Jensen Unit of the CUP including Red Fleet Dam.

Barrett noted that it is the nature of Reclamation construction offices to remain open only for the period of time necessary to construct the project. The Duchesne office was only slated to operate 15 years.

Barrett concluded by saying,

"The Bureau of Reclamation is grateful to the people of Duchesne, the city and county governments, and all those who worked so hard to make the project a reality. It's also important to note many of our employees adopted Duchesne as home and have chosen to retire in the Duchesne area."

Starvation: Utah's best-kept secret

7-8-87
DUCHESNE — The sun is a bright orange orb as it sets across the bay, outlined by a reddish hue above the junipers and dwarf cliffs that form a rim around Starvation Reservoir.

In the distance a coyote howls and is answered by another before the two match and follow the other's animal cry. Nearby a pack of young pups yap. All in the distance.

Soon the sun disappears and the moon throws a blanket of soft light across the turquoise waters. Max Lawrence sits in an easy chair near the beach just soaking it all in. He just retired after 30 years in the Granite School District. His latest post was principal of Vista Elementary School. His wife Connie is in her 18th year with the Mormon Tabernacle choir. Together they own and operate the marina at Starvation, a feature just two years old at the park.

"This we call the best-kept secret in Utah," says Lawrence, pointing to the clear green water which is fast becoming the state's top walleye fishery. For a long time it has been the favorite romping ground of bass fishermen.

Starvation is just coming off one of its best weekends ever, the Fourth of July. Visitation was up 50 percent over last year.

Laced with the desert look of a Lake Powell, Starvation's biggest drawing card next to the fishing is the clean, clear water. The Utah National Guard's engineers recently completed a beach in the northeast corner. There is also a beach



Dick Harmon
 Sports Editor

next to the marina and overflow camping with waist-deep water for 100 yards.

The state park camping facility features showers and modern restroom facilities. But there is little shade.

Fishing through the weekend rated fair to good with several eight-pound walleye taken in. The bass fishing — the bass fishermen will not want you to know — is excellent.

But it's the mellow-tasting walleye that lures the average angler to the lake, a offering of the Central Utah Project near land owned by the Bureau of Land Management and the Ute Indian tribe.

From 1977 to 1980 there were 22 million walleye planted at the res-

ervoir.

Walleye are elusive to those unfamiliar with their feeding habits, but are a great reward to the partaker on the dinner table.

Starvation boasts an unofficial state record walleye last year, a 13-pounder that was not registered in the 30-day limit after a misunderstanding between the time the angler talked to state officials and the taxidermist.

There is no doubt in Lawrence's mind that Starvation's warm water fishery of walleye is better than Yuba, Utah Lake or Willard Bay.

The walleye at Starvation are found in waters 30 to 60 feet deep and near the rocks on the west shoreline, especially off the many points that jut out from the small cliffs.

A proud and smart feeder, the walleye is a natural predator to the minnow chub, but loves worms and insects that naturally blow off the cliffs. They are acutely aware of the natural pattern of the food in the water and current. Perhaps this is why unnatural offerings from shore fishermen pulling lines in shoreward are unsuccessful.

Shore fishing at Starvation is poor. The best success this week are worms on a two-hook, one-sinker rig thrown toward the shore from a boat.

Walleye also love the crawdads which are plentiful at Starvation. They will take artificial worms and a Rapala lure. Anglers have had good success while trolling the Rapala and worm.

Walleye test food by mouthing it,

instantaneously deciding to eat or swim away. When you think you are getting bumped, it is the time to set the hook.

Unlike some trout and certainly unlike bass, walleye will not take anything if they are not hungry. They have no interest in feeding when full.

In just over one hour of fishing against the rocks Monday about 5 p.m. we hauled in bass, walleye and one chub. If there are small chub where you are fishing, there will be no big walleye. The small chub will not venture into waters where big walleye are present.

According to Lawrence, anglers have had good success catching Browns, introduced to clean up the chubs. Cutthroats have been stocked in the lake and are inhabiting the area where the Strawberry Reservoir flows in for a mile in an easy recognizable inlet flow.

There are also lake trout — the mackinaw — but Lawrence has yet to see one brought through the marina. Sightings of lake trout were confirmed by Ray Johnson, Utah's world-famous record-breaker, who came in and scoped it. "There are lake trout in there. They might be too old to reproduce, I'm uncertain. But it's been more than 10 years since they were planted," said Lawrence.

PROVO CANYON — Just a warning for travelers through Provo Canyon. Be prepared for at least a one-mile construction back-up near Bridal Veil Falls. This wait can be up to 15 minutes or



Max Lawrence and Herald sports editor Dick Harmon look over Starvation Reservoir during recent visit.

more depending on the time of day. If possible, go before or after construction crews are on site.

This week crews tore up 50 yards of the highway and traffic is left to a ribbed dirt passage.

compensation negotiations were held last week between Alan Coh-
to do that."

Fishing around Beehive State ranges from fair to good

By REX C. INFANGER
Herald Correspondent

STRAWBERRY — Good fishing with worms at the north end. Fish in the old Strawberry River channel in 15-to-20 feet of water. Use a single split shot and a size eight hook.

SCOFIELD — Fair fishing from the bank with Velveeta. The catch rate is about one fish per hour. The crayfish have increased in number and many can be caught along the east shore.

WILLARD BAY — Catfish fishing has been good. Troll just off the dike with an F-9 blue over silver Rapala. Let the lure bounce along the rocks.

YUBA — Fair fishing for walleyes and northern pike with crankbaits. The fish have moved into deeper water during the day but are coming up in the shallows in the early morning.

SEVIER RIVER — Fair largemouth fishing below Delta. Use a three-inch perch or carp imitation minnow or a gold size three Mepps.

BEAR RIVER — Late night fishing has been good for catfish. Fish above Tremont and below the dam. Shrimp and minnows are working the best. Some largemouth bass are being caught west of Logan with motor oil sparkle Phenoms.

PROVO RIVER — Fair fishing below Bridal Veil with Velveeta. Use six pound test line with no leader and a size 16 hook.

DEER CREEK — Early morning fishing for trout has been the best. Fish down three colors with an orange frog Carter Spoon. Use a long leader for the best lure action.

PINE LAKE — Good fishing from shore with worms. Use a size 10 egg sinker and four pound test line. Fill the spool out to the workable maximum to get longer casts.

FLAMING GORGE — Small-mouth fishing has been excellent. Fish late night and early morning — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Use a combination of green flake Garland Skirt and a green flake Serpent Curl Tail on an eight-ounce jig.

UTAH LAKE — Good fishing out near the island with a black over pearl plastic minnow. Take along a good supply for the "rock cod" population.

GENERAL — Lead core trolling lines from any one brand usually have the same amount of lead in the center for 18- to 36-pound test. The only item that changes is the amount of braided line around the core — this means a 36-pound test line has more resistance in the water and will not go down as deep as 18-pound test will for the same length of line.

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